

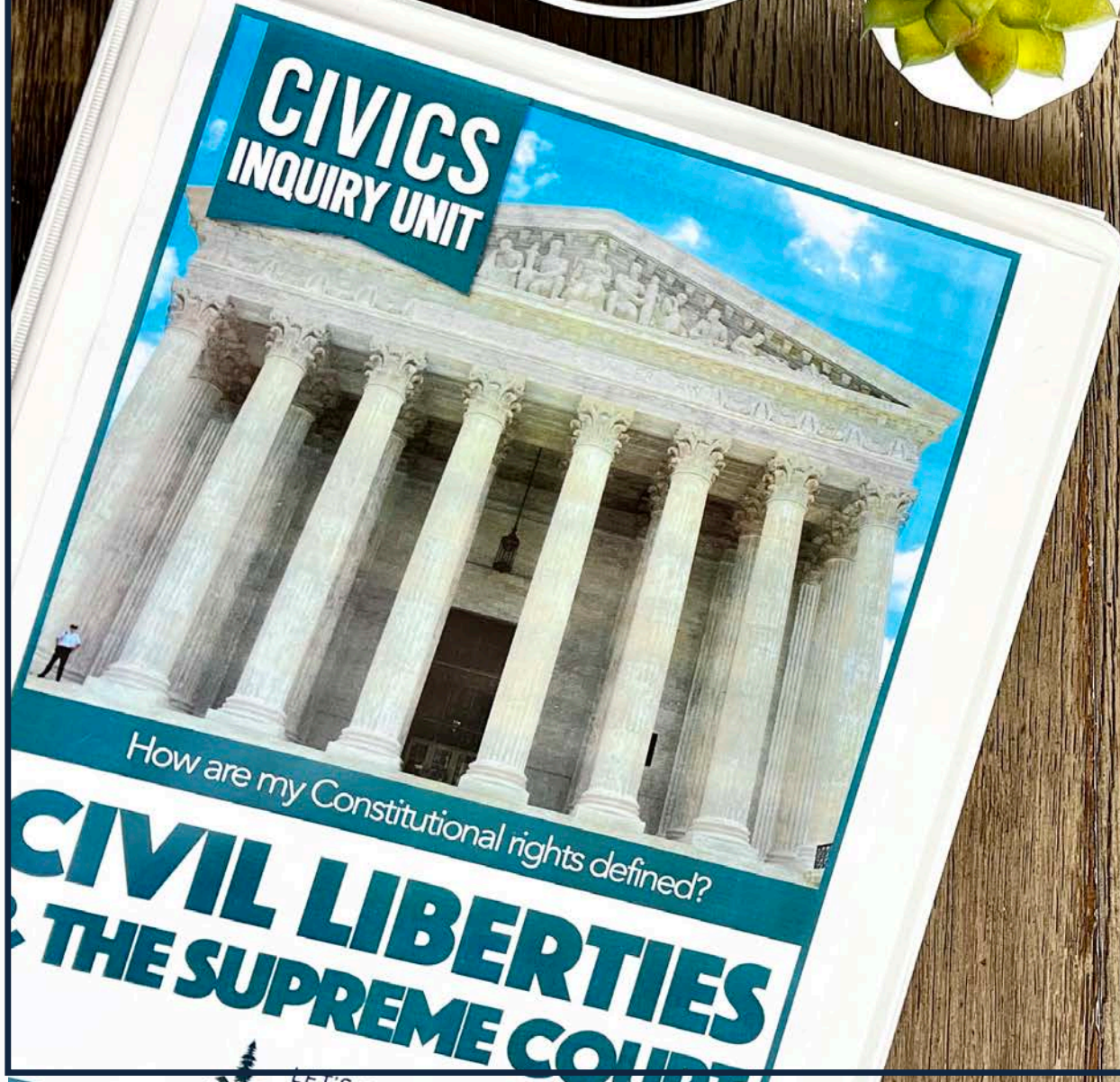
SUPREME COURT & CIVIL LIBERTIES

4-5 week inquiry unit

Teach these core Civics topics **with confidence** using this complete unit.

- ✓ 20 mix & match student activities plus a 70+ slide instructional slide deck
- ✓ Unit overview and pacing guide
- ✓ Overarching unit and daily lesson inquiry questions to drive the content
- ✓ Step-by-step daily lesson plans with accommodation ideas, lesson takeaways, and detailed answer keys
- ✓ Standards-aligned student "I can..." unit review, and unit note-taking sheets
- ✓ DBQ-style culminating essay assessment and authentic PBL project

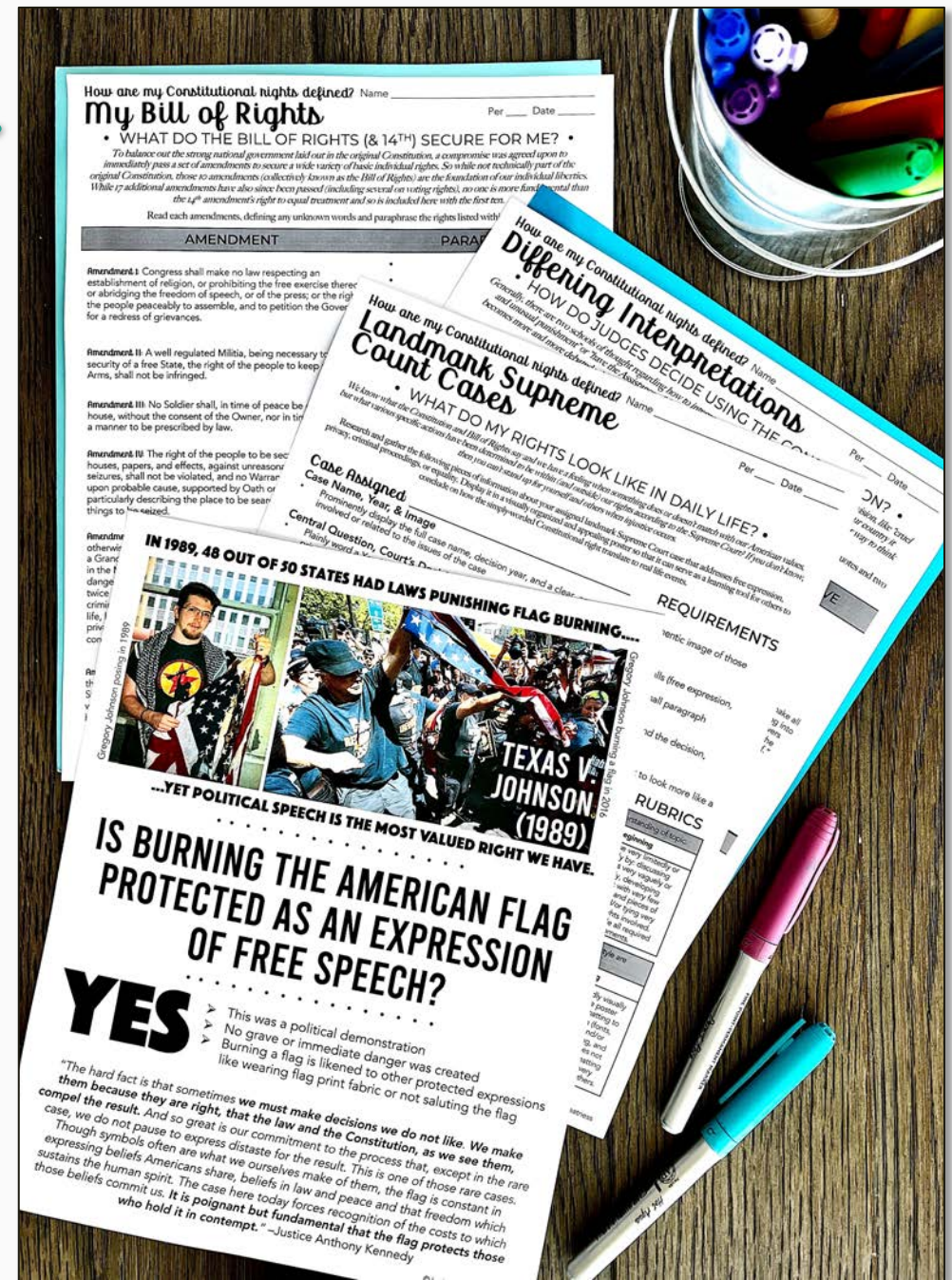
PRINT & DIGITAL OPTIONS INCLUDED



CIVICS & GOVERNMENT TOPICS *covered*

- ✓ **Original Constitution:** Preamble, Article III, Supremacy Clause, George Mason's "Objections", Federalist Paper No. 78
- ✓ **Bill of Rights:** Origins backstory, Amendments 1-10, Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment
- ✓ **Justices:** Strict & loose interpretation, Basics of being a Federal Judge, Current 9 Supreme Court Justices
- ✓ **Landmark Supreme Court Cases:** Process for cases to reach the Supreme Court, 40 Landmark Cases dealing with Free Expression, Privacy, Criminal Proceedings, and Equality

“ My students loved the depth of this PBL. They truly embraced studying each of the civil liberties and their Constitutional Rights granted by the Supreme Court. – Latricia D. ”



VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES *included*

Closely read the Bill of Rights and key Constitution and Founders' excerpts

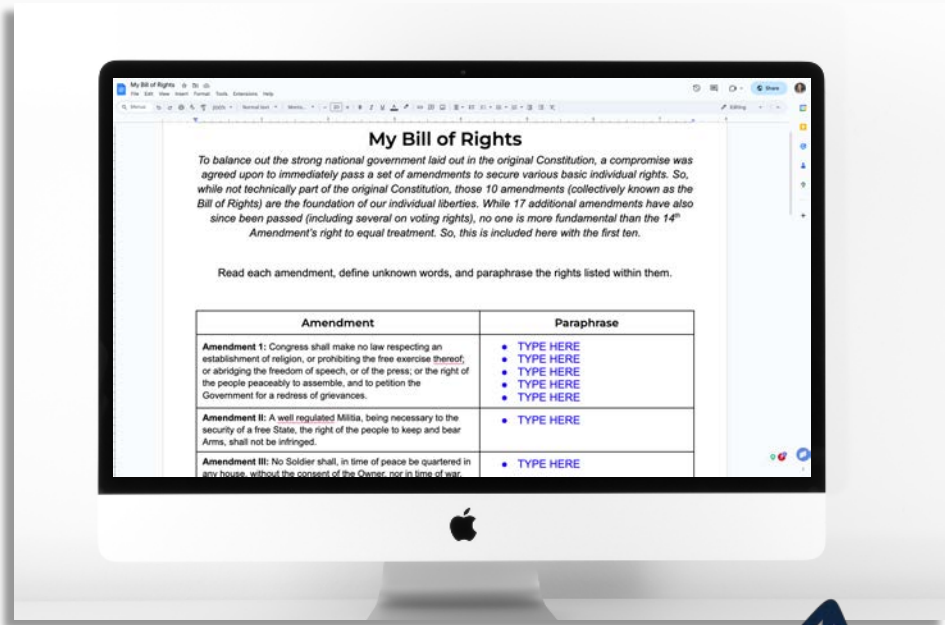
Simulate the challenge of interpreting the 1a and distinguish strict and loose interpretation styles

Research the current members of the Supreme Court

Create posters of landmark Supreme Court decisions

Strengthen learning with puzzles and diorama

Examine political cartoons & news articles on current constitutional issues



Print & digital versions of student activities are included!



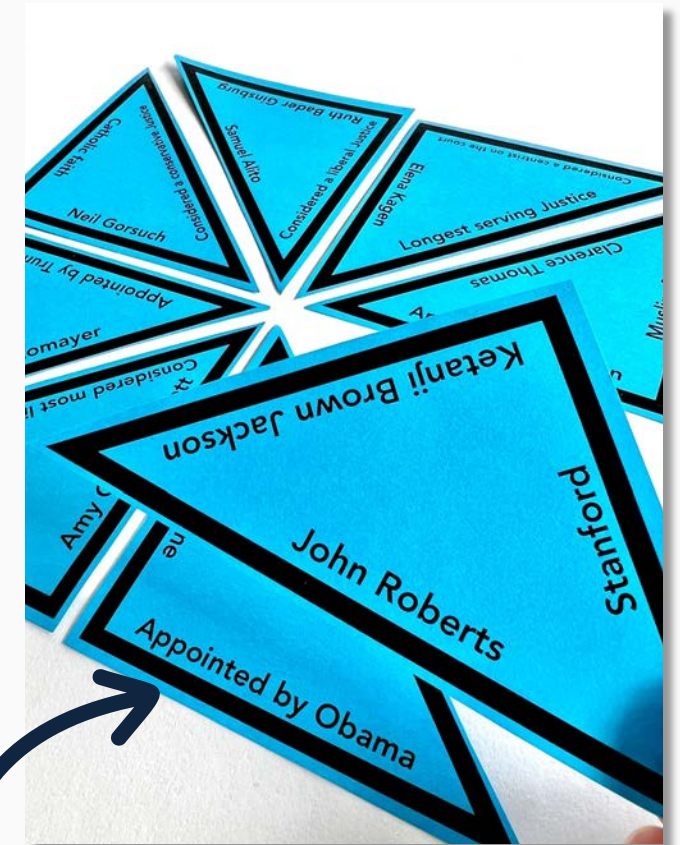
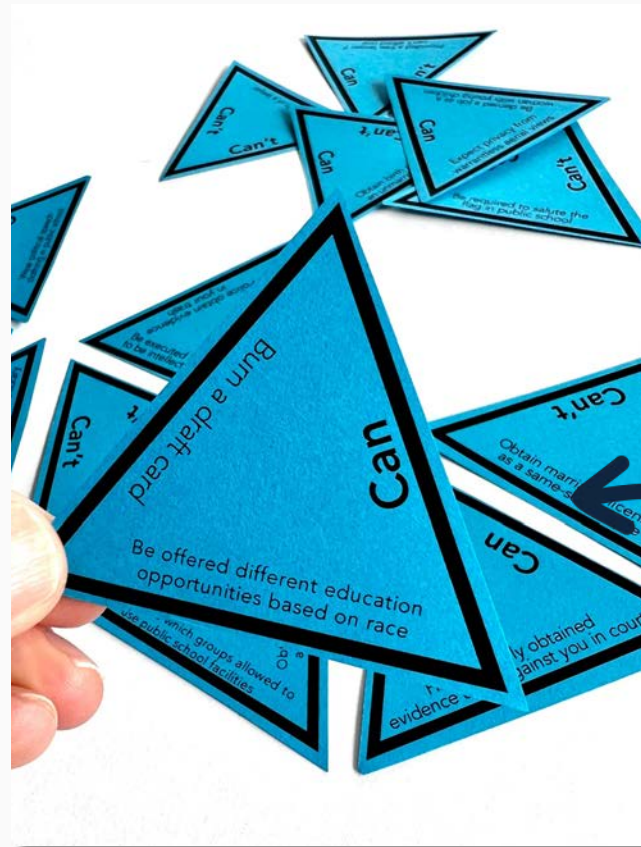
Use **gummy bears** to challenge and assess learning!

“Solid resource that can **easily be adapted** to my different Civics/Government classes. - **Doris M.**
This resource is incredibly **thoughtful, thorough, engaging, and accessible!** - **Joshua H.**”

SUPPORTS & SCAFFOLDS *included*



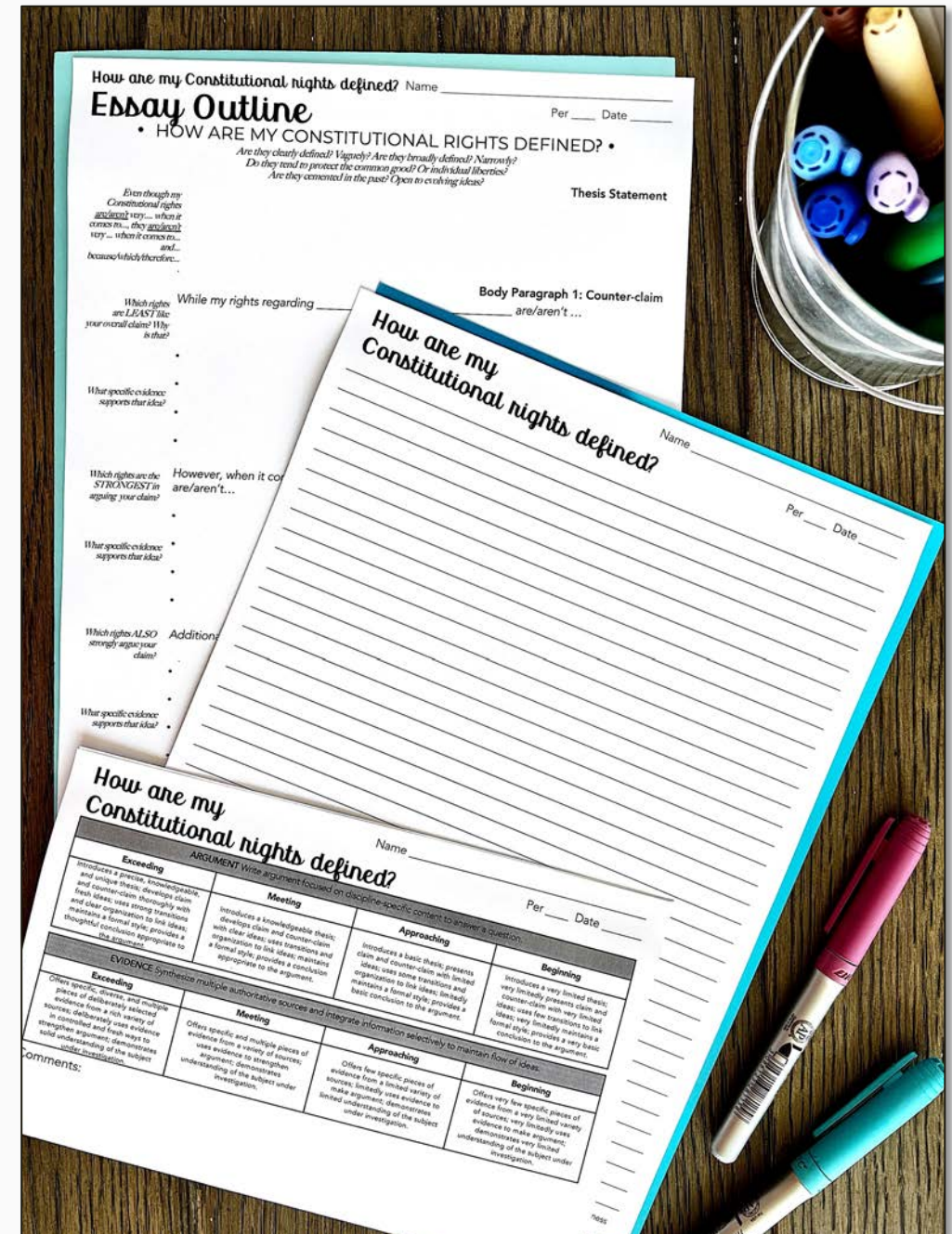
Review **content** with Bill of Rights sorting activities



Collaborative, spatial Tarsia puzzle to promote **deeper thinking & demonstrate learning**

Culminating DBQ ESSAY

- ✓ Unit-long inquiry question with note-taking for deepening understanding
- ✓ Lesson-specific inquiry questions to build toward overarching unit inquiry
- ✓ Collaborative end-of-unit brainstorming exercise
- ✓ Detailed outline template form
- ✓ Step-by-step instructional slides to guide outlining process
- ✓ Thesis & topic sentence templates
- ✓ Essay writing skill how-to handouts
- ✓ Student-friendly rubrics

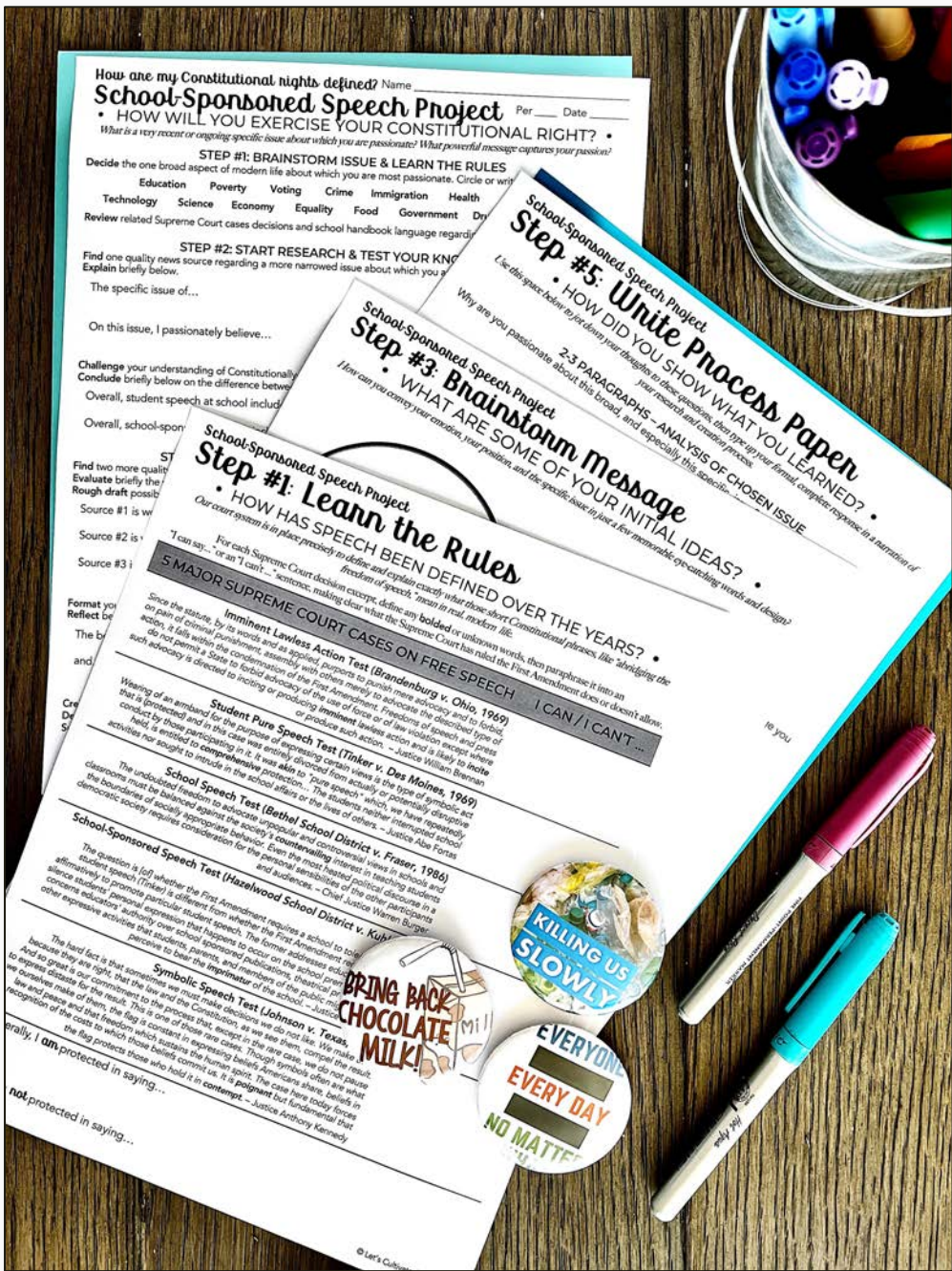


FREE SPEECH *project*

Practice Constitutional rights in real life with this authentic exercise in protected speech.

- ✓ Step-by-step project checklist to manage research & project ideas
- ✓ Deep-dive into the case laws on free speech in public schools
- ✓ Brainstorm, research, & editing forms, detailed student-friendly rubrics

YOUR STUDENTS WILL LOVE THIS PROJECT!



SUPPORTS & ASSESSMENTS *included*

- ✓ Pacing guide with standards checklist
- ✓ Daily driving questions, bell ringers, & closures
- ✓ Step-by-step lesson plans
- ✓ Lesson background & takeaways
- ✓ Answer keys & rubrics
- ✓ Graphic note taking sheets
- ✓ Skill how-to handouts
- ✓ Instructional slide deck
- ✓ Print & digital options



TAKE A PEEK *inside*

every LESSON

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OVERVIEW

General Notes continued

Included Resources

Unit Review & Standards, Skills Sheets (Google Doc version [Review & Standards](#) [Skill Sheets](#))

These handouts guide students in taking control of their learning. Students can use the Unit Review & Standards to check their understanding of the unit.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OVERVIEW

An inquiry unit exploring the protections of our highest held rights.

Course

9th - 12th Government & Civics

Time

4-5 weeks

Topics Addressed

Conceptual understanding of constitutional rights

Framers' thoughts regarding the judicial branch

The civil freedoms and rights guaranteed by the Bill of Rights & 14th Amendment

The differing ways in which the Constitution can be interpreted

The current role and functions of the federal courts & Supreme Court

Landmark Supreme Court cases defining free expression, privacy, criminal proceedings, and equality

Skills Addressed

Determine the central ideas of a source

Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of sources

Make personal and real-life connections to content

Work collaboratively to investigate and address a question

Integrate, compare, and evaluate multiple sources to address a question

Develop a precise position and support it with specific examples

Lesson Takeaway

Unit Overviews give you a bird's eye view of everything at once!

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OVERVIEW

Pacing Guide

Since secondary class periods can range anywhere from 45 to 90 minutes, period length approximates are made for ease of use. The below estimates account for most work being completed in class, with homework being assigned to students. Lastly, current events and political topics tend to generate great unplanned and genuine questions from students. This unit supports standards from several states, which are organized here for your planning purposes.

Classes

Activities

1. Constitutional Right Brainstorm

2. Quotes, Can You...? Quiz

3. Unit Notes, Concept Definition

4. News Article & Political Cartoon Analysis

5. Original Constitution

6. Podcast: The Bill of Rights

7. Gummy Bear Diorama

8. Take a Pencil, Take the Court

9. Differing Interpretations

10. Podcast: Judges

11. Current Supreme Court Tarsia Puzzle

12. Unit Project: School-Sponsored Speech Project

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OVERVIEW

DIGITAL LINKS

How are my Constitutional rights defined?

Unit Overview, Hook, & Notes

Unit Review & Standards

Concept Brainstorm & Definition

Can You...? Quiz

Common Good & Individual Liberty Quotes

Unit Notes

Political Cartoon & News Source Analysis

The Original Constitution

Podcast: Bill of Rights

My Bill of Rights

Differing Interpretations

Podcast: Judges

Current Supreme Court

One-Pager: Directions & Rubrics

Sign-Up

Podcast: Getting to the Supreme Court

Gallery Walk Notes

Unit Project, Essay & Skill Sheets

School Speech Project

Skill Sheets

Essay Outline & Rubric

Instructional Slide Deck

Info At-a-Glance

Pacing guide & standards

MY BILL OF RIGHTS LESSON PLANS

Suggested Lessons

My Bill of Rights continued

- Give the backstory of the creation of the Bill of Rights, tie back to the debate that followed the ratification of the original Constitution → share how in the 27 total amendments, not all deal with individual rights (some address common good issues), but the first 10 and the 14th Amendment deal with most of the individual rights contained in the Amendment.
- Hand out a My Bill of Rights sheet.
- For the remaining paragraphs, read the rights with students.
- Be sure to stress privacy, criminal proceedings, and equality.
- Give time for students to read and discuss.

MY BILL OF RIGHTS LESSON PLANS

Time

2 class period

Materials

The Original Constitution & Unit Notes sheets

My Bill of Rights sheet (double-sided)

Podcast: Bill of Rights

Bill of Rights slips, gummy bears, paper plates, any other supplies

Allow students to read the amendments.

Place students in groups of 3-4.

Have students read the rights.

Lesson T

It's well documented how important the Bill of Rights is to our country. How does the same one not hold the same weight in our knowledge of the Constitution?

Skills Addressed

Determine the central ideas of a source

Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of sources

Work collaboratively to investigate and address a question

Integrate, compare, and evaluate multiple sources to address a question

Helpful planning tips & Links to Google files

Wide range of ways to complete activities!

AMENDMENT PARAPHRASE

How are my Constitutional rights defined? Name _____ Per _____ Date _____

WHAT DO THE BILL OF RIGHTS (& 14TH) SECURE FOR ME?

Read each amendment, define unknown words, and paraphrase the rights listed within them.

AMENDMENT PARAPHRASE

How are my Constitutional rights defined? Name _____ Per _____ Date _____

As you listen to the Civics 101 podcast, *Founding Document: Bill of Rights* (February 26, 2019), take notes using this graphic organizer. Be thinking about how the role of the Bill of Rights has evolved over time.

Constitution Convention, 1787

Ratification process by 1788

James Madison's thinking

Backstory

Madison's initial list included more than _____ rights.

Roger Sherman's idea

In the end, only _____ amendments were ratified as the "Bill of Rights."

Amendments 1 - 3

Amendments 4 - 7

Amendment 9

Amendment 10

Drafting the Bill of Rights

Elkins and McKittrick view

Charles Beard view

Not until 1925

"Thousands and thousands of people..."

I didn't realize...

I wonder...

Daily Inquiry, Directions & Background context

Lesson Plans come with step-by-step directions

Quick link to Google files

Closing formative assessment

Digital versions are fully editable!

Guided notes for content learning

UNIT *overview*

TAKE A PEEK *inside* **each** ACTIVITY

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, or to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

AMENDMENT I

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

AMENDMENT III

in the certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

AMENDMENT IX

Display content to assist your instruction

Get to know the current Supreme Court Justices



Step-by-step essay support

When thinking about free speech, privacy, criminal proceeding, and equality

- 1 Are they mostly crystal clear or vague?
- 2 Are they mostly too broad or narrow?
- 3 Do they favor individual liberties?
- 4 Are they balanced?

Which take

THESIS: Even though my Constitutional rights are/aren't, <counterclaim>, when it comes it <claim 1> because... and <claim 2>, which.... <so, what>.

COUNTERCLAIM: While <right>... 3-4 pieces of specific evidence per paragraph

STRONGEST CLAIM: However, <right>...

SECOND CLAIM: Additionally, <right>...

CONCLUSION: My Constitutional rights today are... I hope/feel/worry/wonder..

ESSAY TEMPLATE

Print PDF & editable Google file options for all student materials to tailor to your classroom needs

School-Sponsored Speech Project Project Rubric

FREE SPEECH ARTIFACT

Write clear and coherent argument in which development, organization, style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

Exceeding	Meeting	Approaching	Beginning
Creates thought-provoking emotion, interest, and a clear position	Provides a clear position	Provides a clear position	Creates very limited thought/proposition

How do my Constitutional rights defined? Name _____ Date _____

School-Sponsored Speech Project

HOW WILL YOU EXERCISE YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT?

STEP #1: BRAINSTORM ISSUE & LEARN THE RULES

STEP #2: START RESEARCH & TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

STEP #3: CONTINUE RESEARCH & BRAINSTORM MESSAGE

STEP #4: CREATE WORKS CITED & SEEK ADVICE

STEP #5: CREATE MESSAGE & PROCESS PAPER; SUBMIT

DUE ON _____

School-Sponsored Speech Project Overview

Your Task:

What is a very recent or ongoing specific issue about which you are passionate? What powerful message captures your passion?

- 1 Step #1A: Decide the one broad aspect of modern life you are most passionate about. **Hand to Step 1**
- 2 Step #1B: Review related Supreme Court case decisions and school handbook language regarding free speech at school. **Hand to Step 2**
- 3 Step #2A: Find one quality news source regarding a more narrowed issue you are passionate about. **Hand to Step 3**
- 4 Step #2B: Challenge your understanding of Constitutionally-protected student speech at school with a recent controversial court decision. **Hand to Step 4**
- 5 Step #3A: Find two more quality sources that provide greater breadth and depth to your issue. **Hand to Step 5**

Instructional SLIDE DECK